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** Amber Alert
guidance
throughout this
edition **



Commanding General AMC Forward-SWA visits Afghanistan

Photo by Sharon Fuller

The Commanding General (Forward) of the Army Material Command (AMC) recently visited the Army Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan and other AMC operations at Bagram.

Brig. Gen. Raymond V. Mason's visit began with a dinner where he spent time with key staff members and questions they had. In the days to follow, Mason toured AECOM Sprungs and received briefs on add-on armor, the paint booths, the retrograde yard, the Army pre-positioned stock. Mason, a peoples person puts his briefer at ease with his humor and praise of a "job well done". The AMC site tour neared the end of Mason's visit with a "sandbox brief" by members of AECOM on future site plans for the battalion.

Mason praising the AMC workers, for the growth he observed during his three-day visit, particularly the battalion's completed tasking of the Army pre-positioned stock sets. "Goals reached by AECOM and AMC display the 'one Army, one Fight' concept the



Brig. Gen. Raymond Mason addresses the workforce of AFSBn-AF.

leaders of today's leaders speak so much about. Obtaining this goal set by DA gives commanders great comfort for strategic flexibilities," said Mason, adding that Army pre-positioned stock around the world isn't at the 99 percent level that was accomplished by the battalion in Afghanistan.

Mason takes a moment to remind everyone, Military, DA Civilian or Contractors, "no matter how many come and go... brother and sisterhood you don't find anywhere else, the military is family."

Army Materiel
Command



"the ability to engage the enemy immediately is a critical capability. Alert gunners on a vehicle, ready to fire, can deter an enemy from attacking that vehicle."

-Maj. Krahling

Amber Alert

*

*Who do you
contact in case
of an amber
alert.*

*



Ingenuity of AECOM

by Maj. Richard Krahling, AFSBn-AF, SPO

photo by Sharon Fuller, AECOM

The logistics warriors of the Joint Logistics Command's 10th Logistics Task Force (LTF) in Afghanistan now have three trucks capable of defending themselves when outside the wire. Thanks to the ingenuity and determination of the AECOM associates working at the Army Materiel Command (AMC) site in Bagram. The Soldiers of 10th LTF have the responsibility to deliver critical supplies to their comrades serving in Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) throughout the area of operations. To accomplish this mission, they use a variety of vehicles, among them the Palletized Load System (PLS).

The PLS consists of a truck with an integral self-loading and unloading capability made possible by the use of demountable cargo

beds, or "flat racks". The ability to load and unload cargo without material handling equipment makes the PLS a valuable piece of equipment when conducting Combat Logistics Patrols (CLPs).

The PLS trucks used on CLPs have been previously up-armored by AMC's maintenance contractor, AECOM. This armor provides protection to the crew in the event of hostile fire, mines, or improvised explosive devices. However, the standard ring mount made for the PLS will not fit on an up-armored PLS. This creates a problem as the ability to engage the enemy immediately is a critical capability. Alert gunners on a vehicle, ready to fire, can deter an enemy from attacking that vehicle. To make the ring mount fit, significant adjustments to the mount and the armor would be required.

The AECOM crew rose to the challenge. AECOM associates Bill Carter, William Ripke, Chris Gall, and others worked for a day and a half designing and then making the necessary modifications and additional mounting components required to make the ring mount function on the first up-armored PLS. They made the armor fit closely around the contours of the ring mount where it was attached to the vehicle and where necessary, they fabricated fittings and extensions to attach the mount to the rear of the cab. With the experience gained on the first truck, the second



Workers from AECOM work to enhance the Palletized Load System. The ability to load and unload cargo without material handling equipment makes the PLS a valuable piece of equipment.

and third trucks were completed in about 6 hours each.

This was a example of what dedicated individuals are doing all the time to find solutions and take care of Soldiers.

Army Materiel
Command

*"The bolt itself
was a pretty
simple program,
that we call a
turn and thread,"
said Harris*

Amber Alert

*Verification of
communication
resources.*

*



De-Mining Team Leaning Forward to save Warfighters

Photo furnished by ManTech International Corporation

You don't hear much about the Demining Team-Afghanistan, the contractors of ManTech but they are here in the background, leaning forward in the foxhole for the safety of our warfighters; with thousands of Soviet era land mines still in the area, Soldiers depend on the armor vehicles that saves Soldiers lives each day.

The Contractor Supported Equipment (CSE) in Afghanistan includes the demining vehicles that identify the location and removal of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and land mines. These vehicles are armored and "blast-protected" to keep our Soldiers safe while on patrol.

Bill Mundy, site manager of the Demining Team-Afghanistan are part of the Defense Systems Group, that falls under ManTech out of Chantilly, VA describes this equipment as the "spearhead of route clearness for the movement of troops across Afghanistan." The equipment support Route Clearance Packages (RCPs) that encounter and detect mines and IEDs, include the Huskey, Merkat and

the Buffalo; specific vehicles used by the Army for explosives operations.

Counter Mining Equipment Maintenance Repair in Afghanistan supports ten Forward Operation Bases (FOBs) that support the mission of protecting the local Afghans. With 14 technicians to support the ten FOBs, and over a hundred vehicle repairs per month, the contractors stay busy supporting the war on terrorism.

With the recent modifications needed to re-enforce the front suspension of the Buffalo, ManTech, a private company under contract with the Army to maintain these vehicles, is extremely busy.

Modifications to the five Buffalos supporting the FOBs are first priority for the company. "The modifications will sustain this equipment in Afghanistan's harsh terrain," said Mundy.

Continue on page 4



Back row L-R - Scott Cooper, Dave Ahlstrom, Delvin Hill, Bud Gerbitz, Kris Horn, Bill Mundy, Shawn Craig, Willie Lewis, Dean Dever, Young Lee, Nelson Castro, Steven Anderson, Bill Cranata
Tony Deluca, Andy Deeprise, Kevin Cody, Rob Martin) The ManTech team in Bagram.

Army Materiel
Command

Amber Alert

*Who do you
contact in case
of an amber
alert.*



The new 3C coin. "It's important that people can associate us with an image."

said Forkas



De-Mining Team

Modifications for this equipment are necessary since the primary design was for the terrain in Iraq; not mountainous Afghanistan. The manufacture-installed springs couldn't handle the Afghan terrain and the size or weight of the equipment, Mundy said.

Teamwork, long hours, and expertise of the ManTech crew with the combined expertise of the other groups that support the mission of AMC all lean forward to keep the Soldier safe.

Continue from page 3



Armored Buffalo keeping the Soldiers safe.

The Three Amigos

photo furnished by 3C

Arriving at the Passenger Air Terminal at Bagram, Afghanistan as a contractor for the first time is full of uncertainty. To set the stage for this uncertainty is the tactical black out conditions 45 minutes before you actually land at your new duty site. The unknown environment as you exit the plane and board the bus to the terminal is another. Will someone be there to get you, how do I call, where is your new duty site, hundreds of questions running through your head.

Not to worry, the first assistance you receive is from our Contractor Coordination Cell (3C) coordinators, Stuart Holcomb, Bill Lampe, and Dustin Forkas; help to ease the uncertainty when you arrive in the terminal. Their duties include Reception Staging, Onward movement and Integration (RSO&I) for all intra-theater air movement. Whether a contractor is moving in or out of the country, accountability is critical, but they also make sure your orders, passport, and civilian identification cards are in order prior to boarding all military flight.

The 3C is headquartered at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. With offices at Ali Al Salem, Kuwait, 3 locations in Iraq, Mosul, Balad, Baghdad, and the one here locally, allow the military to keep the "boots on ground" count close to accurate. While their services to Afghanistan began in November 2005, the 3C has been tracking civilians throughout Southwest Asia, since 2003.

The primary goal of 3C is to provide the commanders a better picture

of who they have in theater. "We are constantly working accountability, from the methods to types of databases we use or what data is needed to make the information functional for the commanders," said Dustin Forkas, the Deputy Chief, 3C Operations here in Afghanistan.

Forkas identifies that while the three-man team have their areas of expertise on the team, they all strive for the same thing, fast service to the incoming contractor and accountability to the theater commanders.

Stuart Holcomb, from Austin, TX is the Lead Operations Coordinator and Bill Lampe, from Tyler, Texas, and coordinates the night operations of the 3C cell here in Bagram. Lampe is the veteran of the group; he arrived in Afghanistan, Nov 2005 when the cell first started, while Holcomb is a veteran of three years with 3C.

Hoping to get the word out about their role and its importance Forkas has developed a logo and coin to present to individuals. "It's important that commanders understand we are here to keep accountability of



L-R Stuart Holcomb, Bill Lampe, and Dustin Forkas.

The Amigos at the A-POD tracking contractors across Southwest Asia

Army Materiel
Command

Amber Alert

*
conduct entry
control pro-
cedures at the
single entry
point and
check the ID
of all
personnel
entering.
*

*"I did not want to
waste any time
so I enrolled in
my certification
the first chance I
got."*

*Ms. Katrina Hill
AECOM*



One Certificate down, two to GO

photo by MSG David Andrews

In a recent ceremony, Lt. Col. Richard Dix, Commander, Army Field Support Battalion, Afghanistan, presented Ms. Katrina Hill, a contractor with AGS/AECOM, the Certified Professional Property Specialist (CPPS) certificate & pin.

It did not take Ms. Katrina Hill long upon her arrival to AGS/AECOM, to decide that she was going to grow professionally in her supply career. Arriving in March, Hill has completed the first of three test requirements to receive her National Property Management Association (NPMA) Certification.

There is three levels of achievement in the NPMA Certification Program, the Certified Professional Property Specialist (CPPS), the Certified Profession Property Administrator (CPPA), and the Certified Professional Property Manager (CPPM).

Ordering her test was the easy part of this career move, finding a proctor to administer the test, was not so easy however. But Hill was determined and searched out Mr. Jack Jones from Doha Qatar. Jones the only certified NPMA member in the area that could administer the test for Hill was happy to assist.

This certification is critical to individuals who want to stand out among the other individuals in the Logistician field. Once she receives the final level certificate of CPPM, Ms. Hill will be the only CPPM in Afghanistan, and will be able to proctor test for the individuals who seek the same professional development. Prepared to take the second test for the CPPA, Hill must wait for her proctor to receive the test from the home office in Dunedin, Florida and Jones to return to Afghanistan, a four hour military air flight.

Hill, from Florida and a mother of four children, understands the importance of

education, and with modern technology she is able to monitor her children's school work. "I go into the web site the school has and I am able to see what the homework is." While it is convenient to be a parent, the children at times wish it were not so easy for "mom" to check their grades, or homework completion and call home for "one on one" counseling if she needs to.

Hill comes to AECOM from KBR in Bagram, and welcomes the slower pace with AECOM allowing her to fulfill her desire of two years to receive the CPPM. She did not waste anytime getting signed up for this course, tracked down a proctor and has all ready recruited four individuals to join the NPMA. "This job is much easier than my job as the property book officer in Bagram" says Hill, "and since my job is not so hectic with AECOM, I did not want to



(R-L Lt.Col Richard Dix, Ms. Katrina Hill, Mr. Don Stagg) Ms. Hill receives her CPPS Certificate in Battalion Stand-up from Lt. Col. Dix.

waste any time with this goal so I enrolled the first chance I got."

Ms. Hill looks forward to her completion of her NPMA certification and has visions of starting a Chapter in SWA to encourage others to take advantage of the time they have to grow professionally in a career she is so found of, SUPPLY.

Army Materiel
Command

Amber Alert

*
**There will be
no area to
area move-
ment until the
ALL CLEAR
is given by the
giant voice.**
*

*It is anticipated
asphalt work will
be completed
during the month
of June.*

Paul Dobie



ROK Army Rocks-On with AMC

by Paul Dobie, AMC Engineer

Photo by Capt. McArdell

During the month of June construction continued on the Army Materiel Command (AMC) Maintenance Site for the Army Field Support Battalion in Afghanistan (AFSbn-AF). Some of the construction highlights are discussed here.

The asphalt work begun in April was finally completed with 80 bollards being placed to mark specific roadways and drainage areas. The CENTAF Master Planning Team was briefed on the previously approved master plan for the AMC site. The team will ensure that AMC is represented in the future plans for Bagram.

Construction was started on the stratex type latrine units for the several hundred personnel that work on site. These facilities will replace many of the Porta-Johns currently in use and will provide for a facility on the North and South sides of the facility. The units will have hot water available in them.

Continued changes in the landscape on the site occurred as the filling of one-half of the drainage retention pond was completed in order to make more land available to an already crowded site supporting the Global War On Terrorism in Afghanistan.

The Korean Engineer Team from Task Force Chamberlain began construction of the long awaited Pole Barn in the vicinity of Sprung 4. The facility will provide overhead cover for many parts and supplies currently exposed to the elements.

The same team will begin work in July for the concrete pad located on the current Army Pre-positioned stock (APS) site. Contract work for the sunshade over the Wash Rack was initiated



ROK Army works the cement.

and progressing well by the end of the month. The structure will afford some protection from the elements for workers that currently work out in the hot sun and winter rains. Work also progressed on the drainage problems between the existing APS site and the 220 Yard which will become the future site of APS in the fall time period. Kelly Brown Root has been doing the grading and fill work to improve the drainage.

The AMC contractor for site operations, AECOM continued to provide operations and maintenance support requirements. A concentrated effort continued on the Paint Booth structure and equipment with the facility becoming operational in early June. Remaining requirements deal with the forced air drying system. An AECOM contract award for rehabilitation of two B-Huts to be used for a temporary MWR facility was awarded and work was begun. In addition, the long awaited roofing contract to correct a design deficiency on both the housing and office complex was begun.

Army Materiel
Command

Amber Alert

*
Know your
location or
the nearest
building
number, when
contacting the
LOC
*



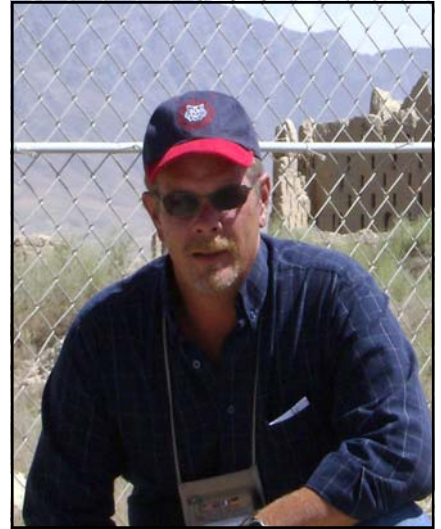
Travel Safe

By Mike Moyer

Do you know where the closest bunker is? As you travel around Bagram, make sure that you are aware of your surroundings. During this time of heightened enemy activity, one should know where the closest bunker is. Remember, it could be behind you. This has really become an issue after the suicide bombing attempt last week.

New rules are in effect at the PAX terminal. You now need to make sure you have two copies of your orders to turn in when you manifest for any type of flight. Also they have increased the amount of days you can sign up before you fly from 3 to 5.

Freedom Flight and R & R flight dates are currently listed through the end of July. Feel free to come by my office or call to get the latest information. I can be reached at 0799059856 or MMCS @ x6045.



MWR update

With the Moral Welfare and Recreation Center (MWR) at a standstill the last two months Mr. Dodson, Deputy Commander, Army Field Support Battalion-AF, took matters into his own hands and found the funds to complete the project with an outside contractor.

"I want the people who support the AMC site to have somewhere nice to go when they are not at work, the previous building did not support that, as it was," said Dodson. After a walk through with the contractor the new center was underway. The ten individuals working on the center are from Afghan Resource Group (ARG). The MWR building will support the troops with Moral, Welfare, and Recreation and the contract awarded to ARG supports Afghan First.

Dodson hopes to have the project completed by July so the Soldiers will have a place to work-out and not have to make the 25-30 minute drive to BAF proper to work-out currently.

The workout center on site will allow maximum time for workouts. There will be a little kitchen with a popcorn machine, "where you can go get popcorn during the day, or during a movie."

Also available will be a library for books and DVD's for members of AMC/AECOM to watch at their leisure.



Workers prepare the 10x20 kitchen of the new MWR center.

Army Materiel
Command

S-1 Update

By Yolanda Geolingo

Military Positions:

There are several Military positions (all fields, mostly supply and operations) available within the Army Field Support Battalion – Afghanistan (AFSBn-AF). Military Personnel who are interested in coming to Afghanistan to support the AMC/CJOA missions and contribute to Operation Enduring Freedom VI please contact Ms. Yolanda Geolingo at geolingoy@mmcs.army.mil or DSN 312-987-5110, option 1, extension 6035.

CIVILIAN POSTIONS:

There are many very fulfilling jobs within the Army Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan (AFSBn-AF). Individuals who would like to make a difference in a very important mission that supports Soldiers are encouraged to apply for any of the vacancies shown.

For more information on civilian vacancies, or if you have any questions about vacancies within AFSBn-AF contact Ms. Janice Robinson at robinsonja@mmcs.army.mil.

Critical Position Vacancy List		
VACANCY	GRADE	LOCATION
ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT OFFICER	GS-12/13	AFGHANISTAN
PROPERTY BOOK TEAM CHIEF	GS-11/12 & 9/11	AFGHANISTAN
QA/QC	GS-12/13	AFGHANISTAN
CHIEF MAINTENANCE	GS-14	AFGHANISTAN
SUPPORT PLANS & OPNS OFFICER	GS-13	AFGHANISTAN

Afghan First Update

Program of Instructions—check,
Safety Gear— check
Instructors briefed and prepared—check
Badge for AMC site for apprentices— check
Interpreter-check

The AFGAN FIRST apprentices program continues on target as members continue the weekly meetings to ensure the program remains on target. Each meeting leads to possible “variance” and resolutions. Members of JLC attend to ensure protocol is met with the Afghanistan cultures and certificates are translated correctly for the locals. While the first class is scheduled to start July 15th, Army Materiel Command (AMC), JLC, and AECOM are already considering the next class and local Afghans to replace the workers who will begin the first apprentice class.

Weekly meetings hosted by Mr. Dodson the Deputy Commander of AMC, and Mr. John Klien keep everyone abreast in the latest developments and direction of future classes. Consideration for the Afghan culture and the future of this country is foremost in the ultimate goals of this program. “If we can teach the locals a viable trade, this will make them more attractive to future jobs.” said Dodson.



Army Materiel
Command

Amber Alert

*
Personnel
moving
around base
are to move
to the nearest
accessible
building and
remain there
until the
operation is
terminated.
*

*...it is official, the
two Dix's were
distant cousins!*



“Military family” with real meaning

Photo furnished by Lt. Col. Dix

Military unit families create special bonds generated through the experiences of a military tour and it's not unusual to establish especially tight friendships in a combat zone; but the commander of the Army Field Support Battalion—Afghanistan actually found real family in the deserts of Southwest Asia.

Lt. Col. Richard Dix arrived at Bagram Air Base in March, 2006 with a clear agenda; create his own mission statement for the “troops” and the brigade, set goals for his team and begin to create a rapport with the unit. If done properly, a unit can establish bonds as strong as those created in an immediate family.

Dix flew to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait in June to meet the Army Materiel Command Commanding General, Gen. Benjamin Griffin for operation briefings. During the briefs, his counterpart in Kuwait, Lt. Col. Lawrence Fuller approached Dix.

“I want to introduce you to someone,” said Fuller, and then introduced Maj. Mitzi Dix, his battalion Army Acquisition Officer, who serves as the battalion contract management officer, managing more than 2,800 contractors. Telephone calls were placed and E-mails confirmed it—the officers were cousins!

Both Mitzi and Battalion Commander Dix were pleased and grateful for their new-found cousins and a bond quickly developed, which led to shared ideas, hopes and dreams for them both. The younger Dix is excited about the wise counsel she is receiving from the Afghanistan commander.

“He’s a very intelligent, multifunctional logistician and despite his busy schedule, he always makes time to mentor me and other young officers,” she said.

Mitzi is a graduate of Howard University, Washington, D.C. and has been assigned in Kuwait since Oct. 2005. Cousin Richard holds a Master of Arts Degree in Procurement and Acquisitions Management from Webster University.

“It was amazing that she is living the dream that I wanted at one point in my career, but the Army thought I was better suited to be an operational logistician! I am very proud of Mitzi and her future is bright! She must be a Dix! It runs in the family! You got to Love It and you’ve got to want to be here! Support through flexibility and family! Hooah,” said the senior Dix.



Lt. Col Dix has gotten more than just a military family bond but that of his distant cousin, Maj. Dix of Kuwait.

Army Materiel
Command

Amber Alert

*
All non-essential
personnel to move
inside/remain
inside buildings
or unit
compounds.
*

"He is a hero when it
comes to
troubleshooting
electrical over
hydraulic systems; it's
not an easy task for
anyone."



Making it Happen

photos by Sharon Fuller

The supply and maintenance status of the Army pre-positioned supply stock for the Army Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan has reached its fully operational capacity. A "drop dead date" set by the Department of the Army and the Army Materiel Command has met this mission due to equipment received from AMC assets worldwide.

AMC-AFSBn-AF was tasked to ensure the Modified Table Organizational Equipment (MTOE) set and the Motorized Option (MO) authorization for a light battalion is prepared for a battalion to assume ownership once in country.

It costs the government millions to mobilize assets for a battalion—often months to reach the designated battle site. AFSBn-AF completed the Department of the Army (DA) tasking ahead of schedule; however, one piece of equipment on hand was not 100 percent functional. Mechanics spent weeks on troubleshooting the Chemical and Biological Protected Shelter (CBPS), but could not identify the problem.

The CBPS is a soft shelter that blocks contaminants while connected to a humvee. It is used by medical personnel during combat to decontaminate patient for medical care. This shelter would not have been of any value to a light battalion in its

existing status. Mechanics' Timothy Rupert and Chad Render, both contractors with AECOM, were bewildered as to what was preventing the soft shelter from inflating. They identified and fixed everything and were at their wits end when Mr. Antony Rowe, Chief, Quality Assurance, asked Mr. Carl Shealey to look at the vehicle. Shealey, another contractor for AECOM, also went to work troubleshooting the equipment. Shealey began troubleshooting the electronic portion of the system and determined that the relays were defective, replaced them, and the soft shelter inflated and the air conditioning cooled the CBPS as needed to meet fully functional capabilities set by Army standards.

Finally, the combined efforts of the AECOM crew paid off and brought the light battalion MTOE and MO to the level required by DA. When asked what he thought of Shealey's abilities, Rowe responded, "He is a hero when it comes to troubleshooting electrical over hydraulic systems; it's not an easy task for anyone. We need to keep him in the fight for freedom."



Carl Shealey uses his military background to bring the Chemical and Biological Protected Shelter (CBPS), operational to meet the DA Requirements for Army pre-positioned stock.

Army Materiel
Command

**"The main thing
is to get to a
hospital and
don't delay,"
says Hardy.**



Health Corner

Summer Time Dangers

There is an Old Texas proverb, "Sometimes when you are trying to kill snakes, you have to kick a few rocks." That was not the case when CSM Schroder of the Army Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan, found a snake coiled up between his toilet lid and seat. How the snake got there is still unknown, but it has forced members of the AMC team here in Afghanistan to take precautions when entering the bathroom. "I thought someone was playing a joke, and it was a rubber snake," said Schroder. "It was not until I saw the head move that I realized it was not a joke, and got my camera." Schroder goes on to say.

Snakes are not foreign to the Afghanistan countryside. In issue of Army Health Care, U.S. Army Maj. (Dr.) Mary V. Kreger, former deputy surgeon Civil Affairs Afghanistan, identifies that "rodents are a problem but not for disease, but for the predators, they attract snakes." Uncertain as to how the snake got into his room, Schroder assures us that he does not have a rodent problem. "Afghanistan has 270 varieties of snakes and 52 are poisonous, including the aggressive Saw-Scaled Viper. A bite from this snake could prove fatal," said Kreger.

First Aid for Snakebites: Over the years, snakebite victims have been exposed to all kinds of slicing, freezing and squeezing as stopgap measures before receiving medical care. Some of these approaches, like cutting into a bite and attempting to suck out the venom, have largely fallen out of favor. "In the past five or 10 years, there's been a backing off in first aid from really invasive things like making incisions," says Arizona physician David Hardy, M.D., who studies snakebite epidemiology. "This is because we now know these things can do harm and we don't know if they really change the outcome." Many health-care professionals embrace just a few basic first-aid techniques. According to the American Red Cross, these steps should be

taken:

- Wash the bite with soap and water.
- Immobilize the bitten area and keep it lower than the heart.
- Get medical help. "The main thing is to get to a hospital and don't delay," says Hardy. "Most bites don't occur in real isolated situations, so it is feasible to get prompt [medical attention]. Some medical professionals, along with the American Red Cross, cautiously recommend two other measures:
- If a victim is unable to reach medical care within 30 minutes, a bandage, wrapped two to four inches above the bite, may help slow venom. The bandage should not cut off blood flow from a vein or artery. A good rule of thumb



Snake found in CSM Schroder's room; how it got, there remains a mystery.

is to make the band loose enough that a finger can slip under it.

- A suction device may be placed over the bite to help draw venom out of the wound without making cuts. Suction instruments often are included in commercial snakebite kits.

Paul Dobie the AMC Engineer has snake bite kits available for those who would like

Army Materiel
Command

Birthday Message from the Chief of Staff

from Soldiers Magazine June 2006



Soldiers • June 2006

2006 Army Birthday Message Call to Duty – Boots on the Ground


The United States Army was born out of the desire to defend liberty and proudly celebrates its 231st birthday on 14 June 2006.

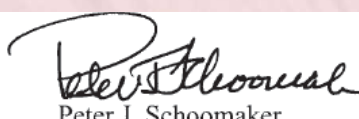
Since 1775, millions have worn the uniform and lived the “Warrior Ethos.” Soldiers have always understood that the freedoms our nation guarantees are worth fighting for and America’s decision to put “boots on the ground” illustrates like no other action its continued commitment to these ideals.


Today, America’s Army is engaged in a global war on terrorism and has a presence in 120 countries. Soldiers have long sacrificed their personal comfort and safety to answer a higher calling. Despite hardships and dangers to life and limb, Soldiers have always answered the call — and our nation has long relied on your courage, your sacrifice and your selfless service.

To our Soldiers around the world, our thoughts are with you and your families on this 231st Army Birthday. We are proud to serve with you, as you embody the Warrior Ethos. You have made our Army the most respected institution in the United States and the pre-eminent land power on Earth. We are humbled by your sacrifice and awed by your achievements.

God bless each and every one of you and your families, and God bless America.


Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army


Peter J. Schoomaker
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff


Francis J. Harvey
Secretary of the Army

